



Schedule of Proposed Action (SOPA)

01/01/2024 to 03/31/2024

Bitterroot National Forest

This report contains the best available information at the time of publication. Questions may be directed to the Project Contact.

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
--------------	-----------------	-----------------	----------	-------------------------	-----------------

Projects Occurring Nationwide

Land Management Plan Direction for Old-Growth Forest Conditions Across the National Forest System EIS *NEW LISTING*	- Land management planning	Developing Proposal Est. NOI in Federal Register 12/2023	Expected:01/2025	01/2025	Jennifer Ruyle 520-388-8351 jennifer.mcrae@usda.gov
	Description: Amend all land management plans for units of the National Forest System to include consistent direction to conserve and steward existing and recruit future old-growth forest conditions and to monitor their condition across planning areas of NFS.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=65356				
	Location: UNIT - All Districts-level Units. STATE - All States. COUNTY - All Counties. LEGAL - Not Applicable. National Forests and Grasslands (128 units).				
Locatable Mining Rule - 36 CFR 228, subpart A. EIS	- Regulations, Directives, Orders	On Hold	N/A	N/A	Sarah Shoemaker 907-586-7886 sarahshoemaker@fs.fed.us
	Description: The U.S. Department of Agriculture proposes revisions to its regulations at 36 CFR 228, Subpart A governing locatable minerals operations on National Forest System lands.A draft EIS & proposed rule should be available for review/comment in late 2020				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=57214				
	Location: UNIT - All Districts-level Units. STATE - All States. COUNTY - All Counties. LEGAL - Not Applicable. These regulations apply to all NFS lands open to mineral entry under the US mining laws. More Information is available at: https://www.fs.usda.gov/science-technology/geology/minerals/locatable-minerals/current-revisions .				

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Projects Occurring Nationwide					
Nationwide Aerial Application of Fire Retardant on National Forest System Land. EIS	- Regulations, Directives, Orders	In Progress: DEIS NOA in Federal Register 02/11/2022 Est. FEIS NOA in Federal Register 09/2023	Expected:09/2023	01/2024	Laura Conway 406-802-4317 laura.conway@usda.gov
	Description: Programmatic Supplemental EIS for the Nationwide Aerial Application of Fire Retardant on National Forest System Land.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=60450				
	Location: UNIT - All Districts-level Units. STATE - All States. COUNTY - All Counties. LEGAL - Not Applicable. The direction in the SEIS will apply to use of aerially delivered fire retardant on all National Forest System land.				

Projects Occurring in more than one Region (excluding Nationwide)					
Nez Perce National Historic Trail Visitor Use Capacity Analysis EA	- Recreation management - Heritage resource management	In Progress: Comment Period Public Notice 06/03/2022	Expected:10/2022	11/2022	Sandra Broncheau-Mcfarland 208-843-2353 sandra.broncheau-mcfarland@usda.gov
	Description: This analysis identifies the visitor use capacity on National Forest System lands only, on the Nez Perce National Historic Trail to assist in the protection and management of trail resources.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=62223				
	Location: UNIT - Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest All Units, Bitterroot National Forest All Units, Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest All Units, Plains/Thompson Falls Ranger District, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest All Units, Salmon-Challis National Forest All Units, Custer Gallatin National Forest All Units, Shoshone National Forest All Units, Caribou-Targhee National Forest All Units, Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest All Units. STATE - Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, Wyoming. COUNTY - Clark, Clearwater, Fremont, Idaho, Lemhi, Lewis, Nez Perce, Beaverhead, Blaine, Carbon, Chouteau, Fergus, Gallatin, Golden Valley, Lewis and Clark, Missoula, Phillips, Ravalli, Stillwater, Wheatland, Yellowstone, Asotin, Wallowa, Park, Teton. LEGAL - Not Applicable. The Nez Perce National Historic Trail is approximately 2,184 miles, extending from the vicinity of Wallowa Lake in eastern Oregon to the Bear Paw Battlefield, about 16 miles south of Chinook, MT.				

Bitterroot National Forest, Occurring in more than one District (excluding Forestwide)	R1 - Northern Region
---	-----------------------------

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Bitterroot National Forest, Occurring in more than one District (excluding Forestwide)					R1 - Northern Region
West Fork and Darby/Sula Ranger District Water System Improvement CE	- Recreation management	In Progress: Comment Period Public Notice 06/05/2023	Expected:08/2023	09/2023	Erica Strayer 406-821-4298 erica.strayer@usda.gov
	Description: The Bitterroot National Forest is proposing to improve three water systems in recreational and administrative facilities.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=64227				
	Location: UNIT - Darby Ranger District, Sula Ranger District, West Fork Ranger District. STATE - Montana. COUNTY - Ravalli. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Magruder Ranger Station, Paradise Guard Station, Warm Springs Campground.				

Bitterroot National Forest Darby Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)					R1 - Northern Region
Lick Creek Demonstration/Research Forest Project CE *NEW LISTING*	- Vegetation management (other than forest products) - Fuels management - Research and Development - Climate Change Adaptation	In Progress: Comment Period Public Notice 10/11/2023	Expected:12/2023	06/2024	Amy Campbell 406-821-4287 amy.campbell2@usda.gov
	Description: This project would examine how different silvicultural systems paired with and without prescribed burning can be used to restore and maintain ponderosa pine forests. More info: https://www.firelab.org/project/ponderosa-pine-restoration-lick-creek				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=64944				
	Location: UNIT - Darby Ranger District. STATE - Montana. COUNTY - Ravalli. LEGAL - T4N, R21W, Sections 19, 20, 29, and 30. The project is located south of Hamilton, MT, and north of Lake Como along FS 5621, FS 5608, and FS 62931 roads.				
Rye Creek Fuel Break Categorical Exclusion CE	- Fuels management	In Progress: Comment Period Public Notice 08/31/2023 Est. FEIS NOA in Federal Register 10/2023	Expected:10/2023	10/2023	Jacquie Parks 406-821-4268 jacquie.parks@usda.gov
	Description: This project would establish fuel breaks in approximately 1,866 acres along approximately 24 miles of roads, of which 95% were affected by wildfires in 2000.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=64726				
	Location: UNIT - Darby Ranger District. STATE - Montana. COUNTY - Ravalli. LEGAL - Not Applicable. The project is located 10 miles SE of Hamilton, Montana (Ravalli County) in the Sleeping Child watershed.				

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Bitterroot National Forest	Darby Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)				R1 - Northern Region
Sleeping Child Fuel Break Categorical Exclusion CE	- Fuels management	In Progress: Comment Period Public Notice 08/31/2023 Est. FEIS NOA in Federal Register 10/2023	Expected:10/2023	10/2023	Jacquie Parks 406-821-4268 jacquie.parks@usda.gov
	Description: This project would establish fuel breaks in approximately 2,130 acres along approximately 24 miles of roads in areas that were affected by wildfires in 2000.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=64728				
	Location: UNIT - Darby Ranger District. STATE - Montana. COUNTY - Ravalli. LEGAL - Not Applicable. The project is located 10 miles SE of Hamilton, Montana (Ravalli County) in the Sleeping Child watershed.				

Bitterroot National Forest	Stevensville Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)				R1 - Northern Region
Bitterroot Front EA	- Forest products - Vegetation management (other than forest products) - Fuels management - Road management	In Progress: Scoping Start 04/20/2022 Est. Comment Period Public Notice 08/2023	Expected:10/2023	10/2023	Steve Brown 406-777-7410 steve.brown2@usda.gov
	Description: The intent of this proposed project and associated project-specific amendments is to address wildfire risk to communities and promote forest restoration on lands administered by the Stevensville and Darby-Sula Ranger Districts.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=57341				
	Location: UNIT - Stevensville Ranger District. STATE - Montana. COUNTY - Missoula, Ravalli. LEGAL - Multiple sections in: T10N/R20W-R21W, T11N/R20W-R21W, T2N/R21W-R22W, T3N/R21W-R22W, T4N/R21W-R23W, T5N/R21W-R23W, T6N/R21W-R22W, T7N/R21W-R22W, T8N/R21W-R22W, T9N/R20W-R21W. Project area includes Forest Service lands on the eastern front of the Bitterroot Range from Darby, MT (Trapper Creek area) to Florence, MT (McClain Creek area) on the Darby and Stevensville RDs.				

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Bitterroot National Forest Stevensville Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)					R1 - Northern Region
Gold Butterfly EIS *UPDATED*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recreation management - Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Forest products - Vegetation management (other than forest products) - Fuels management - Road management 	Completed	Actual: 08/08/2023 08/08/2023 11/15/2019	08/2023	Stephen Brown 406-777-7410 steve.brown2@usda.gov
	Description: Project to harvest, thin, and prescribe burn forest stands to improve resilience to insects, disease, and wildfire and restore the fire return intervals. Move trailheads and manage roads to improve stream conditions.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=51486				
Gold Butterfly Project - Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement EIS *UPDATED*	Location: UNIT - Stevensville Ranger District. STATE - Montana. COUNTY - Ravalli. LEGAL - T.6N.R.18W. sec.1-12, 16-20, 29,30, T.6N.R.19W. sec. 1,2,10-15,22-27, T.7N.R18W.sec. 2-36,T.7N.R.19W. sec. 1,2,11-14,22-27,34-36, T.8N.R.18W.sec. 20,21,28-34. On the east side of the Bitterroot Valley, from Little Three Mile Creek south to Saint Clair Creek and from the Bitterroot Forest boundary east to the boundary with the Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF.				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recreation management - Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Forest products - Vegetation management (other than forest products) - Fuels management - Road management 	Completed	Actual: 08/08/2023 08/08/2023	08/2023	Matthew Anderson 406-363-7121 matthew.anderson3@usda.gov
	Description: This SEIS for the Gold Butterfly Project will analyze a project-specific forest plan amendment related to management of old growth within the project area.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=59262				
	Location: UNIT - Stevensville Ranger District. STATE - Montana. COUNTY - Ravalli. LEGAL - Not Applicable. On the east side of the Bitterroot Valley, from Little Three Mile Creek south to Saint Clair Creek and from the Bitterroot Forest boundary east to the boundary with the Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF.				

Bitterroot National Forest	Sula Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)	R1 - Northern Region
-----------------------------------	--	-----------------------------

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Bitterroot National Forest Sula Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)					R1 - Northern Region
East Fork Fishing Access Site Project CE	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Watershed management	In Progress: Scoping Start 03/16/2021	Expected:04/2023	06/2023	Mike Jakober 406-821-3269 Michael.Jakober@usda.gov
	Description: This project would use boulders to create a parking area and prevent unauthorized, motorized access to a user-created route that is currently causing damage to a wetland along the East Fork Bitterroot River.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=59533				
	Location: UNIT - Sula Ranger District. STATE - Montana. COUNTY - Ravalli. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Forest Service land along the East Fork Bitterroot River at milepost 12.9 of the East Fork Highway.				
Sula District Fuel Break Categorical Exclusion CE	- Fuels management	In Progress: Comment Period Public Notice 08/31/2023 Est. FEIS NOA in Federal Register 10/2023	Expected:10/2023	10/2023	Jacque Parks 406-821-4268 jacque.parks@usda.gov
	Description: This project would establish fuel breaks in approximately 3,000 acres along existing roads, of which 95% were affected by wildfires in 2000.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=64729				
	Location: UNIT - Sula Ranger District. STATE - Montana. COUNTY - Ravalli. LEGAL - Not Applicable. This project is located 17 miles SE of Darby, Montana, in the Sleeping Child watershed.				

Bitterroot National Forest West Fork Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)					R1 - Northern Region
Mud Creek Vegetation Management Project EA *UPDATED*	- Forest products - Vegetation management (other than forest products) - Fuels management - Road management	Completed	Actual: 01/13/2023 01/13/2023	05/2023	David Fox 406-821-2331 david.fox@usda.gov
	Description: Project purpose is to design and implement a suitable transportation system and to improve landscape resilience to disturbances, such as insects, diseases, and fire.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=55744				
	Location: UNIT - West Fork Ranger District. STATE - Montana. COUNTY - Ravalli. LEGAL - Not Applicable. Project is located in the Mud Creek watershed and portions of the Nelson Lake, Little West Fork, Lloyd Creek, Lower Blue Joint, and Painted Rocks watershed areas of the Bitterroot Mountains.				

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Bitterroot National Forest West Fork Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)					R1 - Northern Region
Sheep Creek Rare Earth Exploration Proposal EA *NEW LISTING*	- Minerals and Geology	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 01/2025	Expected:01/2026	01/2027	Daniel Pliley 4065876892 Daniel.Pliley@usda.gov
	Description: The Bitterroot NF received 2 Notices of Intent in the 2022 and 2023 field seasons for Rare Earth exploration in the Sheep Creek area. NEPA analysis type will be determined if and when a Plan of Operations is received. Please subscribe for updates.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=65203				
	Location: UNIT - West Fork Ranger District. STATE - Montana. COUNTY - Ravalli. LEGAL - Not Applicable. This Rare Earth Exploration Proposal would take place in the Sheep Creek area of the West Fork Ranger District of the Bitterroot National Forest.				
Soda Baker Wildfire Risk Reduction and Forest Restoration Project Fuel Break Categorical Exclusion CE	- Fuels management	In Progress: Scoping Start 12/09/2022 Est. Comment Period Public Notice 08/2023	Expected:10/2023	10/2023	David Fox 406-821-1226 david.fox@usda.gov
	Description: This project would establish fuel break in approximately 2,378 acres.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=64706				
	Location: UNIT - West Fork Ranger District. STATE - Montana. COUNTY - Ravalli. LEGAL - T2N, R21W, Sections 27-30 & 32-34, T1N, R21W, Sections 5-9 & 16-20, T1N, R22W, Sections 22-29 & 32-34. The Soda Baker Project is located in the West Fork of the Bitterroot, between Soda Springs Creek and Trapper Creek. The project area is 4 to 14 miles SW of Conner, MT within the #18 ranked fireshed.				
Thunder Mountain CE	- Forest products - Vegetation management (other than forest products) - Fuels management	In Progress: Comment Period Public Notice 02/01/2023	Expected:03/2023	06/2023	David Fox 406-821-1226 david.fox@usda.gov
	Description: This project proposes to reduce fuels and wildfire risk within the Wildland Urban Interface, promote insect and disease resiliency and increase the health and vigor of early seral species (ponderosa pine) across approximately 466 acres.				
	Web Link: http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=63393				
	Location: UNIT - West Fork Ranger District. STATE - Montana. COUNTY - Ravalli. LEGAL - Not Applicable. The project is located near the community of Alta, MT at the confluence of Hughes Creek and the West Fork. T2S, R22W, Sec 34, T3S, R22W, Sections 2 & 3 .				

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
--------------	-----------------	-----------------	----------	-------------------------	-----------------

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

This report contains the best available information at the time of publication. Questions may be directed to the Project Contact.